

Omaha World Herald (Nebraska)

March 24, 1999, Wednesday SUNRISE EDITION

Dorm a Natural on Blossoming Campus

SECTION: ;EDITORIAL; Pg. 14

LENGTH: 285 words

A new dormitory makes sense as part of the blossoming Ak-Sar-Ben campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The \$ 15 million, four-story building for 160 students will be funded by the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation. It is intended to complement the Peter Kiewit Information Science, Technology and Engineering Institute.

There is talk of building a business research center on the Ak-Sar-Ben campus. That project is still in the planning stage, said Winnie Callahan, executive director of the institute's board of policy advisers, but "some type of applied research facility is going to be required for the Kiewit Institute to reach its full potential."

Meanwhile, housing on the same campus with the institute ought to be an excellent incentive for attracting top students. The 60 recipients of Kiewit Institute scholarships funded by the Scott Foundation will get first crack at the dorm rooms. Other scholarship recipients at the institute come next, then other enrollees at the institute, and finally any UNO student.

UNO's director of special projects said the public was not informed about the project until a few days before it was taken up by the Board of Regents because the university anticipated no negative public reaction. Addressing the potential concerns of taxpayer-neighbors and explaining to them how the dorm would have little or no impact on nearby neighborhoods might have been the better course of action. But it's not worth stewing over.

The Ak-Sar-Ben campus is brimming with promise. With effective management of the dormitory, and with reasonable behavior by students, the housing project should add to the positive momentum.

Copyright 1999 The Omaha World-Herald Company